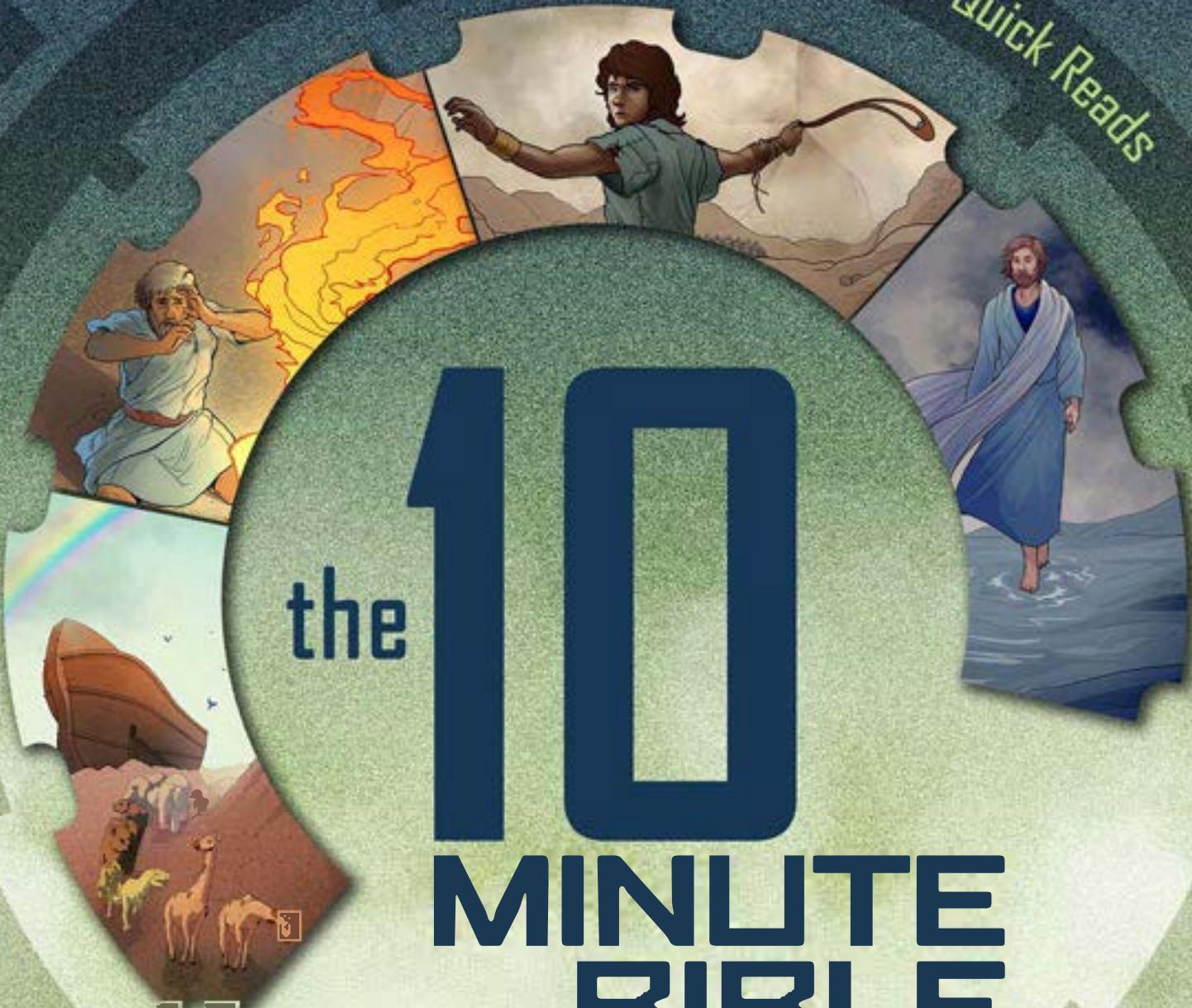


DALE MASON  
foreword by KEN HAM

The Big Picture of Scripture in 52 Quick Reads

# the 10 MINUTE BIBLE Journey





# the 10 MINUTE BIBLE Journey

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## What People are Saying

“To pen a book that is a concise yet profoundly meaningful summary of the most strategic events in the Bible is an ambitious goal, but one that Dale Mason has met well! Mason has crafted an overview that gives the reader an exciting new perspective and the essential context on events they may have read about many times. *The 10 Minute Bible Journey* is as well-suited as a personal devotional, as it is for group Bible Study and one-on-one discipleship. I highly recommend this book for men and women of all ages!

A great, non-threatening way to jump to the next level in your understanding of God’s Word and the gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ!”

—Cathy Allen, COO, Love Worth Finding Ministries

“Love it! The writing style is extremely engaging and the presentation of biblical history is phenomenally seamless. The events selected to articulate the panoramic biblical historical perspective are extremely well chosen.”

—Bryan Osborne, apologetics speaker/chronological teaching specialist

“Dale Mason, in *The 10 Minute Bible Journey*, gives us the proverbial box top to the Bible puzzle. In concise and easily digestible portions, he leads us through the timeline of the Bible and shows the 30,000 foot view that puts everything into perspective. People constantly ask me for a book they can use to lead their family through the Bible in a systematic way...now I have the perfect resource to recommend to them! This is a useful tool for parents, students, church leaders, and anyone doing discipleship ministry. ....Nothing is more important in this world than knowing God as He has revealed Himself through His Word; and *The 10 Minute Bible Journey* will help you to accomplish that in an interesting, creative and powerful way.”

— Israel Wayne, author & conference speaker

“*The 10 Minute Bible Journey* gives readers an easy to understand overview of the story of the world. I’ve been waiting for a book like this!”

— Tim Wildmon, President, American Family Association

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“... always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”

— 1 Peter 3:15 (NKJV)

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“Biblical literacy is a precursor to biblical transformation.”

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## FOREWORD

I met Dale and his wife Karen in the early '80s when I visited the USA from Australia to speak in various American churches on the topic of the relevance of the Book of Genesis. Dale was working in a Christian ministry called Films For Christ, which was known for distributing a movie entitled *The World That Perished*. This evangelistic film dealt with the account of Noah's Flood. We used the movie in Australia to reach thousands of people with the truth of God's Word and the gospel.

In 1986, my wife and I came to America for six months to work with Films For Christ. During this time, Dale and I spent many months on the road traveling across the USA together. Dale had organized scores of speaking events for me as part of a multi-city "book and film" tour. I conducted about 100 engagements: speaking in churches, doing interviews at TV and radio stations, and other outreaches. During these six months, we distributed thousands of books that we hauled to each event in a large trailer! After this successful 1986 speaking tour, my wife, our children, and I returned to Australia. But we all came back to the USA in 1987, where I would work for about seven years with the Institute for Creation Research.

Instead of returning to Australia in late 1993, our family, along with two other families, moved to Northern Kentucky to begin the Answers in Genesis ministry and eventually build the Creation Museum. As the ministry began to grow, and in God's providence, I met up with Dale again. In 2004, AiG had some special needs and I approached Dale about working with us. He agreed, and Dale has been with the ministry ever since and we continue to enjoy a strong friendship.

Several years ago, when Dale reached one of those "big decade" birthday markers, he shared a concern with me. He had been unable to find a book with a solid overview of the entire Bible that was written at an easy-to-read level that included faith-confirming apologetics. Well, I challenged Dale to write it himself! So, he did! And what a unique publication it is, filling a niche that had been missing for a long time.

I encourage dads, moms, grandparents, and teens to use this book as a special devotional. It's certainly different to any other devotional out there. It will give you an overview of the whole Bible and equip you with answers to help defend your faith.

You will love the way Dale has made the major accounts in the Bible flow from one event to the next. It's nearly seamless and in a way that the whole Bible makes so much more sense. With Dale's book, it is now so much easier to see how Jesus is prophesied in Genesis chapter 3 and is active behind the scenes throughout the entire Old Testament. It makes the New Testament come to life in a powerful way.

This book is also like no other because Dale has used his knowledge of apologetics that he has picked up at AiG, our Creation Museum, and the Ark Encounter. He has integrated that faith-Confirming teaching into a survey that covers nearly all the most important events and heroes and heroines of the Scriptures. And with the illustrations and the one-of-a-kind timeline at the back, this book is one of the very best ways that adults and teens can get a great overview of the whole Bible quickly.

At our ministry of Answers in Genesis, we have a Sunday school program called the Answers Bible Curriculum. I see Dale's book as a tremendous complement to ABC as it gives teachers and parents a fast yet thorough summary of what they will be teaching over 3-4 years of the ABC curriculum. In as little as one weekend, or over 52 days of daily devotional times, an adult or teen will understand the big cornerstone events of the Bible. Along the way, they will get to know fun and little-known facts about many of the most-referenced characters of the Bible.

Enjoy and be blessed by this wonderful book.

—Ken Ham  
President/CEO  
Answers in Genesis

## Introduction

*The 10 Minute Bible Journey* is intended to be a fast-paced, apologetics-infused summary of the Bible. It reveals the amazing essentials of Christianity and tells why Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven. As I've told "seekers" and "believers" alike, getting to spend eternity with Jesus in the glories of heaven rather than separated from Him in the punishment of hell is not based on how good we are, what church we attend, or whether we've been baptized. Though important, those things do not determine our salvation. They are not the bottom line.

Friend, what we do with Jesus Christ is the bottom line when it comes to where we will spend eternity when our mortal life is through. Jesus said so Himself in various ways but probably most emphatically when He told His disciples, "I am the way the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father [goes to Heaven] except through me" (John 14:6).

Where are you with Jesus? God spoke through the Apostle Paul when he said that no one is good enough to deserve heaven (Romans 3:23). So, why should Jesus allow you or me to spend eternity with Him? Have you prayed and asked Him to forgive you for your sins? Have you received Jesus as your Savior? Do you truly believe the book of His life? He said that those who are His followers seek to know what He said. Then they do it (John 14:22-24). The amazing true story and words of Jesus are recorded in the Bible, which opens our eyes to know Him better.

Like the Bible itself, *The 10 Minute Bible Journey* begins with "in the beginning" and points to the future return of Jesus. The Bible's journey is from rebellion to restoration, Genesis to Revelation, creation to heaven. It warns about the wide path to destruction, and it highlights the narrow gate to salvation (Matthew 7:14)!

In case the Bible is fairly new to you, here are some really important basic facts.

- The Holy Bible is the error-free collection of 66 smaller books. There is no other book like it.
- Over a period of at least 1,600 years, about 40 different authors from many walks of life wrote down the inspired text given by God's Holy Spirit.
- The first portion, the Old Testament, covers the first two-thirds of history. It runs from God's creation of the universe and mankind, to the years just prior to the birth of the promised Messiah.
- The final portion, the New Testament, covers the birth, ministry, death, and all-important Resurrection of Jesus, plus the rapid spread of Christianity in the first century A.D. It tells about the future Second Coming of Christ, how to be forgiven and spend eternity in heaven, and that those who are not forgiven will spend eternity in the very real place called hell.

However, this book is about the Bible; it is not the Bible itself. It is a carefully researched summary of the most strategic and faith-confirming accounts from the Bible's first book, Genesis, to its last book, Revelation. It includes faith-facts known as "apologetics" that confirm from science and other proof tests that the Bible is true.

The chapters in *The 10 Minute Bible Journey* are in the order that the events actually occurred. In our present era — when in most churches only the last portion of God's Word is taught — this "chronological" approach helps us to quickly understand the big picture of the Bible and the seamless storyline of Jesus. It helps us to easily place each event in relation to the others. It provides an overview, much like the picture on the box top of a jumbled jigsaw puzzle serves as a guide as to how the multitude of pieces actually fit together.

The Bible, as originally written down, is historically accurate. Therefore, in *The 10 Minute Bible Journey* approximate dates are included at the beginning of each account. These dates are based first and foremost on the Bible itself, and most are documented in the respected work of scholar and theologian James Ussher. His meticulous chronology of history is derived primarily from the dates of births, deaths, kingly rule, and other points in time. Though ridiculed by skeptics, especially those committed to belief in the idea of evolution, Ussher's chronology holds enormous value even today.

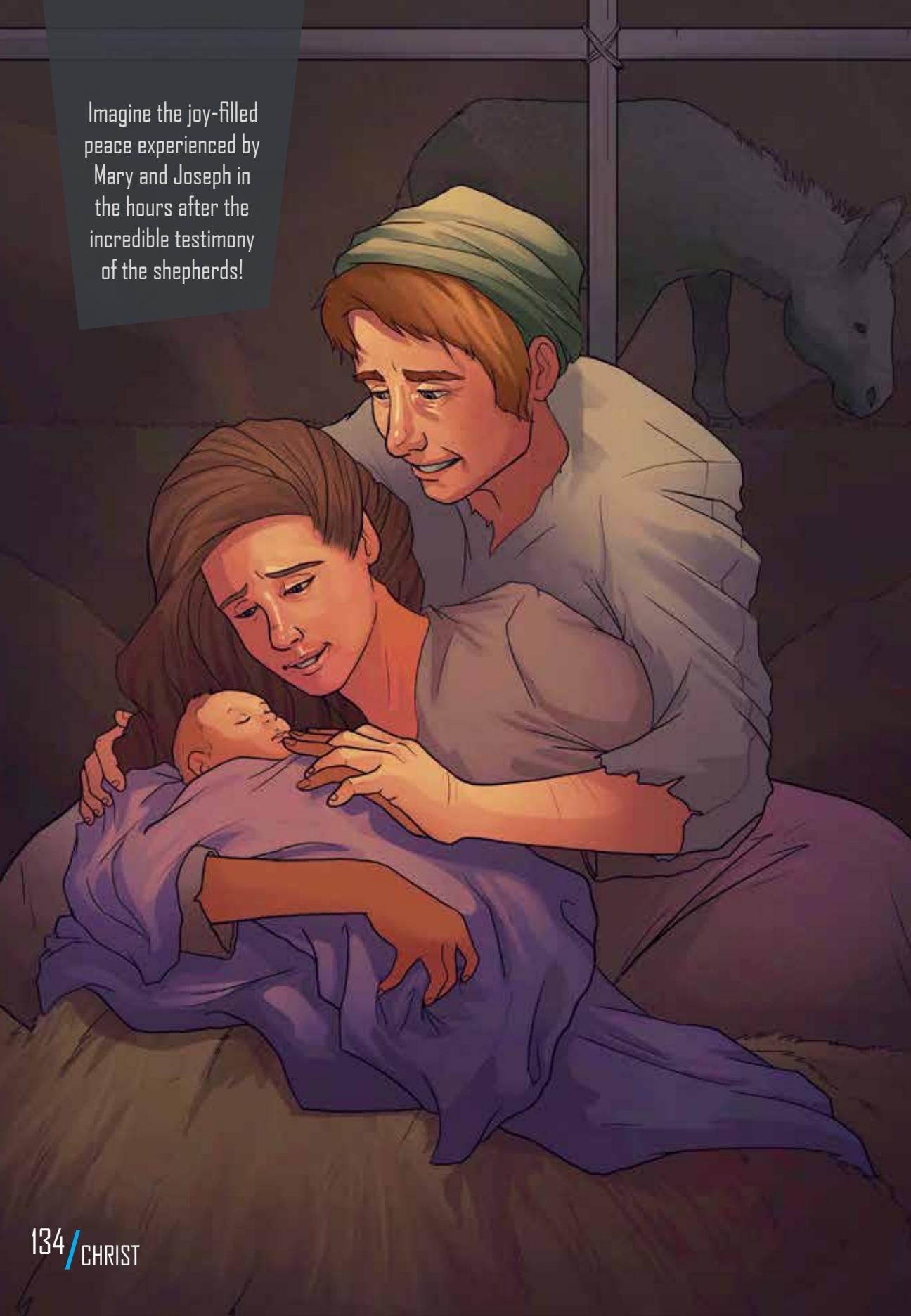
Whether you know the Bible well, or you long to see how all its amazing key events fit together, you will appreciate our Creator's plan for the restoration of creation and the salvation of mankind better than ever.

It is my prayer that you will be drawn passionately into God's Word, and an even deeper relationship with His son, Jesus.

Welcome to God's story — the true history and future of mankind!

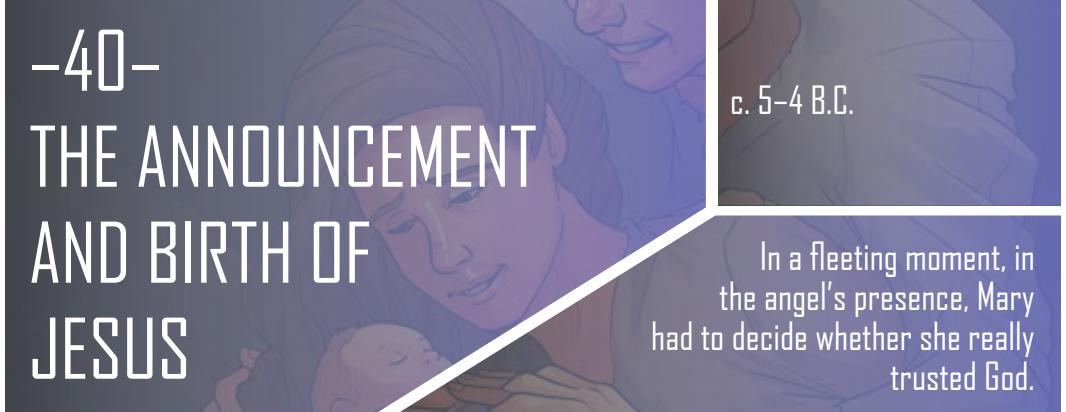
—Dale Mason

Imagine the joy-filled peace experienced by Mary and Joseph in the hours after the incredible testimony of the shepherds!



# -40- THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND BIRTH OF JESUS

c. 5-4 B.C.



In a fleeting moment, in the angel's presence, Mary had to decide whether she really trusted God.

It had been four thousand years since Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden. Now, God's plan for the redemption of mankind was focused on Nazareth, a village about 75 miles north of Jerusalem.

There, an angel appeared to a Jewish maiden, a virgin engaged to a godly carpenter named Joseph.<sup>1</sup> The angel said, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." He told her that she would bear a son, and to name him Jesus.

When Mary became pregnant, Joseph did not believe her when she explained that an angel told her that, by God's Holy Spirit, she would give birth to a son. Joseph was probably reeling from deep disappointment and other overwhelming feelings. Yes, he was betrothed to Mary, but her story was impossible, so he intended to quietly end their engagement.

Then in a dream, an angel assured him that Mary's news was true. From that moment, the burden of mistrust toward his beloved lifted, and Joseph took on the role of protector of both Mary and the Messiah in her womb.

His obedience to God and his role as provider for Jesus was crucial.

Although Joseph and Mary were descendants of King David, the couple was of humble means. What set them apart was their trust in God.

In God's sovereign plan, Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem to be counted in a Roman census. The Bible does not say that Mary rode a donkey. Nor does it say that they arrived on the day of Jesus' birth. Nowhere does it say that a hotel manager turned them away or that there were any hotels at all.

It does say that while they were at Bethlehem the time came for Jesus to be born, and there was no room in the "inn." Now, many homes included space for animals on the ground level, and an upper room for guests, called a kataluma. This was the "inn." Extra guests often slept in the downstairs stable. It is likely that others, perhaps elderly relatives, were given the upper room. After all, many other relatives were also arriving at Bethlehem and Mary's farfetched pregnancy story was surely scoffed and disbelieved.

Luke 2 reveals that on the night Jesus

was born, Mary wrapped him and laid him in a manger — a feeding trough. That same night, a group of shepherds was keeping watch over their sheep. First, they were visited by just one angel, who told of the birth of Jesus and that they would find Him wrapped in cloths, lying in a manger. Then a multitude of angels suddenly appeared, praising and giving glory to God! The shepherds were probably dirty, stinky, and disheveled, but they hurried to Bethlehem anyway.

At the place where Jesus was born, they found a Jewish maiden who had recently experienced the joy and pain of childbirth. They also found tiny Jesus wrapped and lying in a manger, just as the angel told them. However, the Bible does not mention a special star that night above where Jesus lay. No camels, glowing halos, or wise men on that first night. It does not even say that the angels sang.<sup>2</sup>

But surely the excited shepherds encouraged Mary when they told her of the great company of angels. Then they went throughout Bethlehem and the countryside telling of the throng of angels and the Savior that had been born!

The excitement of their joyous report must have been a huge blessing to Mary and Joseph, and an amazing confirmation to their relatives and others that the girl everyone assumed to be unchaste truly was the chosen virgin-mother of the long-awaited Messiah!

## PRIMARY PASSAGES:

Matt. 1:18–25; Luke 2

### KEY VERSE:

“... and she brought forth her son — the first-born, and wrapped him up, and laid him down in the manger, because there was not for them a place in the guest-chamber.”

—Luke 2:7 (YLT)

### WRAP UP:

“Father, it is hard to imagine the joy and relief felt by Mary and Joseph on the night that Jesus was born. The angel’s promise of a boy-child had come true and both mother and baby were safe! Then, You sent an unexpected group of men; shepherds who joyously and probably boisterously told of being visited by a multitude of angels who confirmed that the child in the manger was the long-awaited Messiah. What a beautiful gift You gave the young couple, whose story regarding Mary’s supposed ‘virgin pregnancy’ was supernaturally confirmed.”

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# STAR-GAZING WISE MEN AND A POWER-CRAZED KING

c. 5-4 B.C.

The arrival on earth of the  
One who spoke the universe  
into being was suddenly emblazoned  
across the heavens.

In a country east of Israel, scholars known as magi carefully studied the heavens. To their surprise, one night they observed a new star mysteriously rising. Fascinated, the magi found that the star was prophesied hundreds of years earlier, to mark the arrival of a very special Jewish king.<sup>1</sup>

Meanwhile, in Bethlehem, perhaps 600 miles due west across the desert, the fire glow that illuminated the place of Jesus' birth was erased by the morning sunrise. Although the angel's announcement shared by the shepherds was exciting and surely led to visits by numerous townsfolk, basic daily responsibilities had to continue. The small family with the amazing story probably soon found a better place to stay and left the feeding-trough-manger behind.

In obedience to the Scriptures, Joseph had Jesus circumcised when he was eight days old. During the weeks and months that followed, Joseph apparently found work at Bethlehem, where loved ones heard the eyewitness account of the shepherds and now wondered in amazement, *Could Mary's absurd testimony about her*

*virgin-pregnancy actually be true?*

Meanwhile the magi prepared for their historic trek — perhaps with a caravan that included servants, soldiers, riding animals, and pack animals loaded with gifts, shelters, food, and other provisions. The goal — to locate and worship the extraordinary king whose birth was heralded by a star!

Forty days after Jesus' birth, Joseph took Mary and Jesus to Jerusalem to fulfill the Law of Moses requiring a sacrifice for the new mother's purification. Only about six miles from Bethlehem, it was likely an easy walk on the much-traveled road to the capital city. During their time at Jerusalem's stately temple, more about Jesus was shared, first by the jubilant Simeon, then by the elderly prophetess, Anna.

Sometime after that day, possibly when Jesus was around one year old,<sup>2</sup> the magi arrived at Jerusalem. It was here, in the city of the Jewish Temple that they expected to find the future king of the Jews. The esteemed magi received an audience with King Herod the Great and told of the star and its meaning. Herod inquired of his chief priests and scribes, who confirmed that, yes, a king

was to be born, but in Bethlehem of Judea, not Jerusalem.<sup>3</sup>

Herod directed the magi to the nearby town. He told them to report back to him as soon as they found the child, supposedly so he too could go and worship. The magi rejoiced greatly that the very special star — a supernatural phenomenon — guided them and came to rest over the home where Jesus was.<sup>4</sup> They fell down and worshiped the child, presenting Him with valuable gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Then, because they had been warned in a dream not to report to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. In a dream that night, the Lord told Joseph to get up, take Mary and Jesus, and immediately escape to Egypt, because Herod was about to search for Jesus to kill Him.

Joseph obeyed without delay, but Herod became furious that he had been outwitted by the magi. Likely to help ensure the future king's death, ruthless Herod ordered the execution of every male child up to two years old in Bethlehem and the surrounding region.

Joseph stayed with Mary and Jesus in Egypt until an angel appeared again in a dream and told him to return to Israel. On his way to Bethlehem, Joseph was warned again, in another dream. So he turned and went to the region of Israel known as Galilee, and it was there in

the village of Nazareth that Jesus was raised — as the Scriptures foretold.

## PRIMARY PASSAGES:

Matt. 2; Luke 2; Lev. 12:2–6

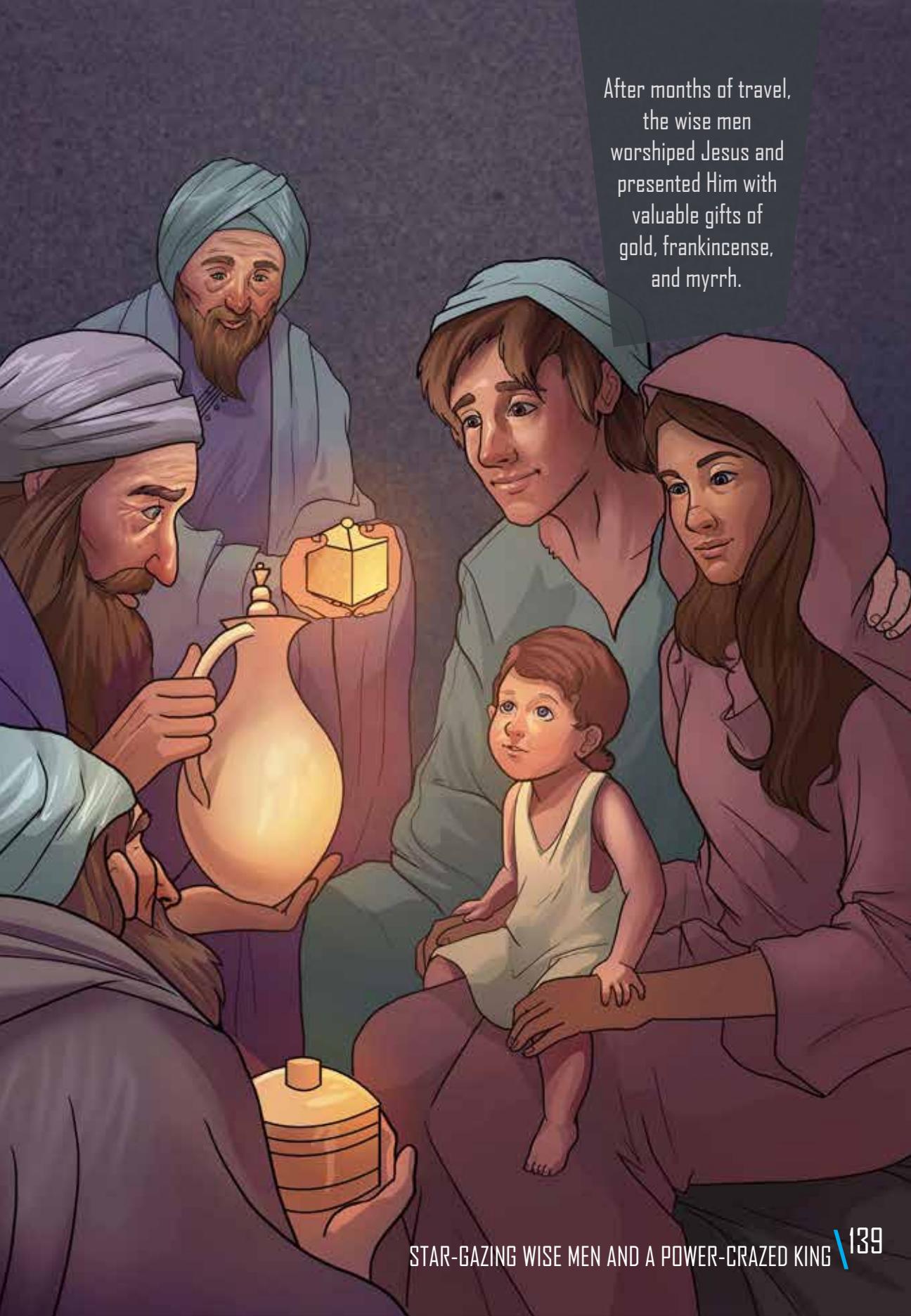
### KEY VERSE:

“... behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was... they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.”

—Matt. 2:9–11 (ESV)

### WRAP UP:

“God, when I picture the magi I envision stately, aloof men. I do not imagine a group of leaders who are ecstatic, rejoicing with exceeding great joy. But the Bible describes some sort of euphoric state that night as the supernatural star led them to the house where Jesus was. Your lovingkindness must have been an exceptional encouragement to Mary and Joseph as regal representatives from a faraway nation actually fell before Jesus and worshiped Him! Thank You for supplying for the needs that Joseph and Mary would face in their urgent departure only a few hours later.”

A colorful illustration depicting the visit of the Three Wise Men to Baby Jesus. In the center, Baby Jesus sits in the lap of a woman, likely Mary. The wise men are shown: one on the left holding a large, light-colored vessel (a gold gift), one in the center holding a small, square box (a frankincense gift), and one on the right holding a smaller vessel (a myrrh gift). The background is dark, making the light from the gifts and the baby stand out.

After months of travel,  
the wise men  
worshiped Jesus and  
presented Him with  
valuable gifts of  
gold, frankincense,  
and myrrh.

# BONUS—A Synchronized Christmas Reading

What might it have been like to be able to see what was happening in Israel, and Persia, at the very same time on the night of Jesus' birth and during the days and months that followed? It may have been that. . . .

As angels filled the nighttime sky near Bethlehem, announcing the arrival of the long-awaited Jewish Messiah, a new star captured the imaginations of a small group of wise men in a country hundreds of miles to the east.

As amazed shepherds near Bethlehem rushed to find the baby in a manger, magi studying the nighttime sky in Persia rushed to reveal to their colleagues the discovery of what looked like a brand new star!<sup>1</sup>

Within hours, sunrise erased the fire-lit scene at the Savior's birthplace. The countryside near Bethlehem echoed with the joyous news from eyewitness shepherds about angels and a newborn king. . . . Meanwhile, in Persia, wise magi clustered in discreet excitement of their own, anxious to understand the meaning behind the star that suddenly appeared from nowhere.

It seems likely that townsfolk in Bethlehem came to Mary to see for themselves the newborn baby whose angelic announcement had transformed dirty, smelly, often profanity-spewing shepherds into God-praising worshipers. In a span of hours, the quiet couple who only yesterday were seen as deceitfully covering their immorality were now VIPs whose honor had been confirmed by messengers from God Himself.

A guestroom was probably soon made available at the home of a relative or a neighbor. And the manger made famous by modern Christmas carols may have been needed only for a night, then soon became simply a feeding trough once again.

But even with all the excitement and happiness surrounding Mary's impossible reality, the essential duties of everyday life soon stole the astonished townsfolk away from their visits with the virgin mother and her carpenter husband. They marveled at the full account, beginning with the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary, Joseph's dream, Mary's visit to her relative Elizabeth, and of course the amazing events of the night Jesus was born!

It is likely that the actual time of year of Christ's birth was late spring, not December.<sup>2</sup> The villagers were busy in the surrounding fields, and in cooking, sewing, shearing sheep, grinding grain, nurturing children, and more.

Joseph found work to sustain his small family. They stayed in Bethlehem beyond the eighth day when Jesus was circumcised. By the day following the 40-day cleansing sacrifice required after the birth of a male child, the couple returned to small Bethlehem.

One night, perhaps about a year later, it was at a house in Bethlehem that the magi found and worshiped the young child they knew to be the King of the Jews. Their star had guided them the final hour or so from Jerusalem and stopped above the house of Jesus.

We can only imagine the events that transpired in Persia beginning the night of the sudden occurrence of the star in the western sky. From their place hundreds of miles away, likely in the region now known as Iraq and Iran, they studied the sky west of them toward the Mediterranean Sea. Surely the learned men went almost immediately to the source of so much of their information, the scrolls and writings of Daniel and others stored in their vast library.

And their plan to visit the future king — whose birth was announced by a star — was born!